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SUBJECT: WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVES ANGOLA PROTRACTED  
RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

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Summary  
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1. The U.S. Delegation (USDEL) provided a number of comments to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) regarding its new Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) for Angola during WFP's Executive Board (EB) meeting the week of October 20. The USDEL complimented WFP on its current work during its many years in Angola, requested further details regarding its work and beneficiary numbers, cautioned WFP to use implementing partners that were capable of taking on additional responsibilities and to properly compensate them, and appealed to the Government of the Republic of Angola (GRA) to do more in its support of WFP, by way of monetary, as well as logistical, support. WFP addressed USDEL's comments and has already supplied a breakdown of the beneficiary numbers. The GRA announced that 7.5 million U.S. dollars (USD) has been set aside in its 2004 budget for WFP operations. End Summary.

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Background  
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2. WFP's current PRRO to initially address the needs of 1.16 million beneficiaries for a period of 18 months began on July 1, 2002. It was subsequently revised to accommodate the increased caseload caused by the end of Angola's 30-year civil war. The new PRRO, to begin in January 2004, spans the period of 24 months and addresses the needs of an average of 1.4 million beneficiaries per month. WFP reports that two million internally displaced persons (IDPs) returned to their homes by May 2003, from a total of an estimated 4.1 million that were displaced when the war ended in February 2002. Total requested tonnage for the two-year period in the new PRRO is almost 400,000 MT.

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WFP Executive Board Presentation  
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3. The U.S. delegation made the following comments to WFP during the WFP EB.

A. USDEL takes note of the tremendous efforts that have been invested in feeding and caring for the millions of Angolans that have been affected by the almost 30 years of war in Angola. This new PRRO reflects the fact that major needs remain in Angola, even though the future looks much brighter.

B. We also compliment WFP on its use of the Vulnerability and Analysis Mapping (VAM) and rapid-food need assessment surveys (RFNA) that have guided WFP in its work in identifying the most vulnerable, as well as in weaning people off food aid after a successful agriculture season. We also support WFP's efforts to have its implementing partners for educational programs mainstream HIV/AIDS issues into their curricula and support HIV/AIDS education for WFP truck drivers. This work is important.

C. Also important is the need for WFP to continue to work closely with FAO in reviving agriculture activity

throughout the country. Food for Seeds, Food for Assets, and Food for Work (FFW) are vital and timely

programs, as Angola moves out of its long-term emergency status. We are pleased to see that WFP has included in its budget the non-food items to support these programs. We would appreciate explanations of how the Food for Assets and Food for Work programs have been working over the last year.

**1D.** And even though we applaud WFP's desire to move from general feeding programs to FFW interventions, we are concerned that WFP not expand this use of food commodities too quickly so that management and monitoring becomes a burden. At present, WFP has 130 different implementation partners throughout Angola with varying levels of capacity. We urge WFP to ensure that all its implementing partners are capable of implementing FFW activities.

**1E.** We do not see in the document a breakdown of the beneficiary numbers over the two-year period of the PRRO. Only the average number of 1.4 million beneficiaries is given with an anticipated decrease in the numbers in 2005. We would like to receive a chart of the anticipated number of beneficiaries to be serviced in each quarter (or six month periods) over the next two years, broken down by the various interventions listed on Table 2 of the program proposal. We also request that the chart break out figures by regions. This is especially important to the USG as we are also funding the Consortium for Developmental Relief Programs in Angola (CDRA) which is being implemented in the Plan Alto and engaged in resettlement/FFW activities.

**1F.** Following on our intervention in May 2002, we would once again like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage the Government of the Republic of Angola (GRA) to make a substantive cash contribution to this new PRRO. We recall that the GRA contributed three million USD to the previous PRRO in February 2001 and note that no contributions have been made to the current PRRO. We urge the GRA make a substantive contribution in the near future as such action would be looked upon quite favorably by the donor community.

**1G.** We note that the PRRO states the logistical capacity of the GRA Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS) "is still developing, so WFP will continue to be responsible for its own logistics operation." We understand that significant logistical challenges remain in Angola and feel that the GRA should soon be playing a larger role in WFP's operation.

**1H.** WFP's overland transport of food has now increased to over 85 percent, however we see that the Land Transport, Shipping, and Handling (LTSH) rate remains quite high in the new PRRO: 235 USD/MT. Associated with this, adequate compensation to the implementation partners remains a concern to the USG. Compensation rates currently range from 8 USD to 47 USD per metric ton, depending on the specific agreements. The USG urges WFP to select only those partners capable of meeting WFP's strict criteria and to ensure that the partners are properly compensated for distributing commodities.

**1I.** Given the fact that there will continue to be many changes taking place in Angola over the coming year, we would like to request that WFP provide a progress report at next year's third regular session of PRRO 10054.2.

**1J.** And with these comments, we recommend approval of the new PRRO.

**14.** The USDEL also took the opportunity to thank Francesco Roque-Castro, the WFP Country Director for Angola, for his work in Angola at this critical juncture in Angola's history. Roque-Castro is retiring from WFP this month.

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WFP's responses  
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**15.** Roque-Castro made the following responses to the USDEL intervention, as well as to other donors' comments.

**1A.** WFP's Food for Work (FFW) and Food for Assets Creation programs over the last years have steadily grown. In 2000, WFP had 123,000 beneficiaries in these two programs, and currently there are over 205,000. Under the new PRRO, these programs will significantly

increase.

1B. WFP agreed to provide the beneficiary tables, which included break down of numbers by region, and has done so. FODAG forwarded the tables to USAID/FFP, USAID/OFDA, State/PRM and State/IO on November 3.

1C. Roque-Castro said WFP agreed with the implementation limitations of some NGOs and noted that WFP needed to do a better job of ensuring proper payment in a timely fashion.

1D. WFP's surface transport of food is now at almost 90 percent, but some air capacity is still required for places that become newly accessible, which is still occurring. The LTSH rates have steadily decreased each year from 355 USD/MT in 2000, to 322 USD in 2001, to 272 USD in 2003, and 235 USD in 2004. WFP will review the rates again this November. Note: The PRRO document is prepared four to five months before the EB, so the rates in the new PRRO document are an estimate for 2004. End Note.

1E. WFP noted the importance we place on working with FAO, and felt that the relationship between the two organizations had improved. WFP had provided transport for FAO seeds and tools.

1F. As requested by the USDEL, WFP agreed to provide an report work achieved under the new PRRO at the October EB session in 2004.

1G. Roque-Castro noted that WFP needed funding for its Special Operation, which provides air support to the humanitarian community.

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GRA's response  
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16. The GRA announced that in its 2004 budget it was planning to contribute 7.5 million USD to WFP in support of the new PRRO.

17. The GRA reminded the EB that pockets of emergency needs remain in some areas due to the presence of mines (making areas inaccessible), bridges being out, or other

hindrances. It estimated that over the next six months, access could decrease because of the rainy season and that food needs would remain high until the 2004 harvest. FFW programs will help to rehabilitate basic infrastructure for access and opening markets, voiced the GRA.

18. The GRA said that even though HIV/AIDS rates are fairly low in Angola compared to other African countries, it had recently approved a national plan for combating HIV/AIDS which it hoped to launch within 7-10 days time at the national, as well as regional, level.  
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